



BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE (BSPC) MEETING

Special COVID-19 WebEx

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 | 11:00 am

AGENDA – SPECIAL MEETING TO BE CHAIRED BY DR. KOENIG

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS (Kristi Koenig, MD)

- No introductions were made due to time constraints.
- Currently continue to do well. The R0 that talks about the transmissibility of COVID-19 has crept up above 1 by our best estimates. In order to control the epidemic, it needs to be below 1.
- In comparison to Europe, Europe is starting to come off their curve. We are continuing in our curve, and still slowly ascending in cases.
- Two simultaneous reasons for increase are: (1) opening the economy and (2) cases from Mexico, in particular the transfers from Imperial County.
- Concern for younger healthier people contracting the virus and potentially spreading it to high risk groups. The challenge is with the exponential growth. Watching metrics closely.
- Optimistic that a vaccine will be developed. There may be a second wave, but we are still on our first wave.
- Possibility for seasonal variation and concern regarding co-existence with the fall flu season. More important this year than ever that everyone get the flu vaccination.
- The CDC reported there is a combined test for Influenza A, B, and coronavirus test coming soon.
- Very dependent on ensuring that we implement NPIs such as the three Ws: Wash your hands, Wear your mask, and Walk away.
- CDC is soon coming out with updated masking recommendations.
- San Diego County had very early experience and earlier implementations of NPIs; and the concept of treating everyone as if they have COVID-19.
- Prehospital patient volume had dipped and is now trending back up. Concerns over ED visits that had declined; 23% heart attacks, 20% strokes, 10% hyperglycemic crisis. Concerned that people with other emergencies were not accessing care; getting better now.
- ED ILI was at 2% activity. Very low, but up from 1% from previous week. Monitoring closely. Can be an indirect indicator of COVID-19.
- Watching 13 different metrics. The Community Outbreak trigger was hit.

2. PROTOCOLS (Kristi Koenig, MD)

The full-scale protocol updates have been deferred until the following year, with the same cycle. Any new changes related to COVID-19 have been instituted early with the goal to both protect the prehospital providers and emergency department receiving personnel, as well as ensure the best possible care is provided to patients.

3. IMPERIAL COUNTY UPDATE (Brian Christison)

The situation in Imperial County is slowly improving. They have a very high percentage of positive cases, roughly double than in San Diego County, and Mexicali is double than in Imperial County, which has put an immediate strain on the Imperial County health system. Their two hospitals are at full capacity. The State has facilitated transfer of more than 345 patients from Imperial County to other hospitals throughout the state. Over 160 transfers took place so far in June. The state is having more and more difficulty finding open patient care capacity for many of the ill patients, which is taking longer for transfers. San Diego County remains the largest single receiving destination for Imperial County transfers, and has received about 40% of all those transfers. The State and Federal government have supported the hospitals with deployed resources such as the National Guard, CAL-MATs and partial DMAT deployment to bolster the hospitals as well as standing up an alternate care site, which has increased its capacity with monitoring tools, lab access, and additional physicians. For those patients who are going to be discharged but are not quite ready to go home, will be transferred to the ACS. The ACS runs about 10-15 patients daily.

4. PREHOSPITAL METRICS & TRENDS (Barbara Stepanski)

The following slides and data were shared:

- Total Prehospital Patient Volume per Day – volume is well below the trigger line.
- Total Number of Provider Impressions by Day – volume decrease started in March. Seen a gradual increase, but below trigger line.
- Average Transfer of Care (TOC) Time per Day – volume well below trigger line.
- Suspected Cardiac and STEMI Provider Impressions – volume is below range.
- Cardiac Arrest Provider Impression – volume remains within range.
- Stroke Provider Impression – volume remains within range.
- Traumatic Injury Provider Impression – had the most impact. Decreased in March, hit the lowest in April. Gradual increase at the lower end of range.
- Acuity – volume has fluctuated.
- 15% of volume in patients that had a reason to suspect or may have been exposed to COVID-19.

ACTIONS by County EMS:

- 1) Will look into possibly tracking how many providers tested positive for COVID-19.**
- 2) Will distribute the slides/graphs to the group.**

5. HEALTH CONNECT (Mark Branning)

Health Connect is working very closely with the County of San Diego during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Tracing/Notification – notifications are being sent to HHS when a patient is seen at a specific facility - Hospital/ED/Clinic.
- COVID-19 Test Results – a registry has been created. To be completed next week.
- Confirmed Incident/Case – a searchable registry web application will be available. To be completed next week.
- Demographic & CIE Lookup – created to help the tracers who need more information on the patients. The tracers can only see demographics and programs the patient is on.
- Public Health Lab and Blood Bank Results – are now being included in the HIE query.
- County COVID-19 Dashboard – assisting with the design. To be completed in the fall.
- Lab Orders/Results – is now electronic. Results will be pushed when a patient arrives at specific facilities. To be completed in August.

6. DISASTER COUNCIL (Linda Rosenberg, RN)

- Transfers from Imperial County.
- The Medical Operations Center (MOC) remains open and is focusing on establishing supply of PPE.
- Storage and decontamination equipment.
- Health Care Coalition working on Continuity of Operations Plan, Response Plan, and pediatric surge.
- N95 reprocessing and storage.

Dr. Koenig – There are certain products that are not eligible. Ensure you have the information that your particular brand is eligible.

7. BHNC REPORT (Christine Wells, RN, MICN)

- Meeting regularly; going back to monthly schedule.
- A reminder that if suspended off the ground, would go to a trauma center; if they are not suspended, would go to the closest ED.

8. WRAP UP & NEXT MEETING (TENTATIVE July 21, 2020)/ADJOURNMENT

- Reminder that we are in a critical time and we may or may not see a surge in the coming weeks.
- Everyone was encouraged to remain focused and keep the group updated with any observations and suggestions from the front lines.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.

